Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A turbocharger comprising:

a compressor comprising a compressor housing and a compressor wheel mounted in the compressor housing;

a turbine comprising a turbine housing and a turbine wheel mounted in the turbine housing;

a shaft connecting the compressor wheel to the turbine wheel;

a one-piece center housing disposed between and mounted to the compressor and turbine housings, the center housing defining a bore that receives the shaft therethrough; and

a hydrodynamic foil bearing assembly mounted in the bore of the center housing rotatably supporting the shaft, and comprising a foil thrust bearing assembly, a first foil journal bearing located between the compressor wheel and the foil thrust bearing assembly, and a second foil journal bearing located between the foil thrust bearing assembly and the turbine wheel;

wherein the center housing defines a cooling air supply passage leading into the bore adjacent the thrust bearing assembly for supplying cooling air to the foil thrust bearing assembly, the journal bearings define cooling passages arranged to receive said cooling air after said cooling air has cooled the foil thrust bearing assembly, and the center housing defines cooling air discharge passages arranged to receive said cooling air after said cooling air has cooled the foil journal bearings.

2. (Previously Presented) The turbocharger of claim 1, wherein the first foil journal bearing comprises a first annular bearing carrier formed separately from and fixedly mounted in the center housing, and the second foil journal bearing comprises a second annular bearing carrier formed separately from the center housing and first annular bearing carrier and fixedly mounted in the center housing, each annular bearing carrier mounting a foil along an inner surface of the annular bearing carrier.

3. (Previously Presented) The turbocharger of claim 2, wherein the annular bearing carriers comprise stainless steel to minimize heat transfer from the turbine to the foils.

4. (Previously Presented) The turbocharger of claim 2, wherein the annular bearing carriers comprise ceramic to minimize heat transfer from the turbine to the foils.

5. (Previously Presented) The turbocharger of claim 2, wherein each annular bearing carrier is mounted in the center housing by an undulating ring mounted about the annular bearing carrier and abutting an inner surface of the bore in the center housing, the undulating rings helping to thermally isolate the foils from heat transfer from the turbine and serving to radially locate the annular bearing carriers in the bore of the center housing.

6. (Previously Presented) The turbocharger of claim 2, wherein the foil thrust bearing assembly comprises an annular thrust disk and a pair of annular foil thrust bearings respectively disposed adjacent opposite faces of the thrust disk, the annular bearing carriers disposed on opposite sides of the foil thrust bearing assembly with the annular bearing carriers being connected to each other so as to capture the foil thrust bearing assembly therebetween.

7. (Previously Presented) The turbocharger of claim 6, wherein the thrust disk has a radially inner portion extending to a smaller radius than the inner surfaces of the annular bearing carriers, and the shaft connecting the turbine wheel to the compressor wheel comprises a stepped shaft and a shaft sleeve, the stepped shaft having a larger-diameter portion connected to the turbine wheel and journaled in the second journal bearing with an end of the larger-diameter portion abutting one side of the radially inner portion of the thrust disk, the stepped shaft having a smaller-diameter portion connected between the compressor wheel and the larger-diameter portion and extending through a central hole in the thrust disk, and the shaft sleeve being sleeved over and fixedly joined to the smaller-diameter portion and being journaled in the first journal bearing with an end of the shaft sleeve abutting an opposite side of the radially inner portion of the thrust disk.

8. (Original) The turbocharger of claim 1, wherein the center housing defines a water jacket therein for circulating cooling water for cooling the foil bearing assembly.

9. (Original) The turbocharger of claim 1, further comprising a first metal seal ring disposed about an outer surface of the shaft adjacent the compressor wheel and a second metal seal ring disposed about an outer surface of the shaft adjacent the turbine wheel, the seal rings being radially compressed between the shaft and stationary surfaces of the turbocharger for sealing the bearing assembly.

10. (Original) The turbocharger of claim 9, further comprising a stationary annular support ring fixedly mounted in the center housing surrounding the shaft adjacent the first foil journal bearing, the first seal ring being compressed between the shaft and an inner surface of the support ring.

11. (Original) The turbocharger of claim 10, wherein an interface between the support ring and an inner surface of the bore in the center housing is sealed by a resiliently elastic O-ring radially compressed between an outer surface of the support ring and said inner surface of the bore.

12. (Original) The turbocharger of claim 10, wherein the second seal ring is compressed between the outer surface of the shaft and an inner surface of the bore in the center housing.

13-15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) A turbocharger comprising:

a compressor comprising a compressor housing and a compressor wheel mounted in the compressor housing;

a turbine comprising a turbine housing and a turbine wheel mounted in the turbine housing;

a shaft connecting the compressor wheel to the turbine wheel;

a one-piece center housing disposed between and mounted to the compressor and turbine housings, the center housing defining a bore that receives the shaft therethrough;

a hydrodynamic foil bearing cartridge mounted in the bore of the center housing rotatably supporting the shaft, the bearing cartridge comprising a foil thrust bearing assembly retained

between first and second foil journal bearings, the bearing cartridge and center housing being configured such that the bearing cartridge is insertable as a unit into the bore of the center housing from an end of the center housing adjacent the compressor.

17. (Previously Presented) The turbocharger of claim 16, wherein the first foil journal bearing comprises a first annular bearing carrier formed separately from and fixedly mounted in the center housing, and the second foil journal bearing comprises a second annular bearing carrier formed separately from the center housing and first annular bearing carrier and fixedly mounted in the center housing, each annular bearing carrier mounting a foil along an inner surface of the annular bearing carrier.

18. (Previously Presented) The turbocharger of claim 17, wherein the foil thrust bearing assembly comprises an annular thrust disk and a pair of annular foil thrust bearings respectively disposed adjacent opposite faces of the thrust disk, the annular bearing carriers disposed on opposite sides of the foil thrust bearing assembly with the annular bearing carriers being connected to each other so as to capture the foil thrust bearing assembly therebetween.

19. (Previously Presented) The turbocharger of claim 18, wherein one of the annular bearing carriers is piloted into the other to locate the annular bearing carriers coaxial with each other.

20. (Currently Amended) A hydrodynamic foil bearing assembly installable as a unit into a turbocharger, and comprising:

a foil thrust bearing assembly comprising an annular thrust disk and a pair of annular foil thrust bearings respectively disposed adjacent opposite faces of the thrust disk; and

a foil journal bearing assembly comprising a pair of annular journal bearing carriers mounting a journal foil assembly along an inner surface of each annular bearing carrier, the annular bearing carriers respectively disposed on opposite sides of the foil thrust bearing assembly with the annular bearing carriers being connected to each other so as to capture the foil thrust bearing assembly therebetween, each annular bearing carrier having an outer diameter greater than an outer diameter of the thrust bearing assembly such that the thrust bearing

assembly does not project radially outward beyond the outer diameters of the annular bearing carriers.

21. (Original) The hydrodynamic foil bearing assembly of claim 20, the thrust disk having a portion extending radially inwardly beyond the journal foil assemblies for connection to a shaft of a turbocharger.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A hydrodynamic foil bearing assembly ~~of claim 21~~ installable as a unit into a turbocharger, and comprising:

a foil thrust bearing assembly comprising an annular thrust disk and a pair of annular foil thrust bearings respectively disposed adjacent opposite faces of the thrust disk; and

a foil journal bearing assembly comprising a pair of annular journal bearing carriers mounting a journal foil assembly along an inner surface of each annular bearing carrier, the annular bearing carriers respectively disposed on opposite sides of the foil thrust bearing assembly with the annular bearing carriers being connected to each other so as to capture the foil thrust bearing assembly therebetween, the thrust disk having a portion extending radially inwardly beyond the journal foil assemblies for connection to a shaft of a turbocharger, wherein one of the annular bearing carriers is piloted into the other to locate the annular bearing carriers coaxial with each other.

23. (Previously Presented) The hydrodynamic foil bearing assembly of claim 20, wherein each annular bearing carrier has an undulating ring mounted about an outer surface of the annular bearing carrier, each undulating ring defining a plurality of circumferentially spaced undulations that project radially outwardly of the annular bearing carrier for contacting an inner surface of a housing in which the bearing assembly is mounted.

24-25. (Canceled)

26. (Original) A turbocharger comprising:

a compressor comprising a compressor housing and a compressor wheel mounted in the compressor housing;

a turbine comprising a turbine housing and a turbine wheel mounted in the turbine housing;

a shaft connecting the compressor wheel to the turbine wheel;

a center housing disposed between and mounted to the compressor and turbine housings, the center housing defining a bore that receives the shaft therethrough;

a hydrodynamic foil bearing assembly mounted in the bore of the center housing rotatably supporting the shaft;

wherein the center housing defines a cooling air supply passage leading into the bore for supplying cooling air to the foil bearing assembly, and cooling air discharge passages arranged to receive said cooling air after said cooling air has cooled the foil bearing assembly;

a cooling air supply line coupled to the cooling air supply passage of the center housing; and

a reverse pitot tube connected to the cooling air supply line for extracting cooling air from an engine air intake and delivering the cooling air into the cooling air supply line.

27. (Original) The turbocharger of claim 26, further comprising a filter arranged in the cooling air supply line for removing oil vapor from the cooling air before the cooling air is supplied to cool the foil bearing assembly.

28. (Original) A method for operating a turbocharger having foil bearings and having a turbine with a variable nozzle, wherein the variable nozzle is structured and arranged to receive exhaust gas from an engine and supply the exhaust gas to a turbine of the turbocharger, the method comprising partially closing the variable nozzle at engine idle condition so as to increase the idle speed of the turbocharger such that the foil bearings are prevented from stalling and stopping.